



Running Start Information Handbook

2025-2026

What is Running Start?

Running Start is a statewide program allowing eleventh and twelfth-grade high school students to take courses at the local community college. Completing each college course can earn both high school and college credit. The term 'Running Start' means the enrollment of an eligible student in the school district and community college or solely in the community college courses, to earn both high school credit to be awarded by the school district, and additional college-level credit as may be awarded by the community college. (RCW 28A.600.390)

Who Pays for Running Start?

Running Start is paid for by using funds the state gives the school district to educate each student. These funds only pay for tuition at the college. All books, materials, and fees must be paid by the student. Students with Free or Reduced lunch may get the Technology fee waived by providing documentation to the Admissions office.

Why Consider Running Start?

1. The state will help pay your tuition.
2. You can receive high school credit and college credit for the same class.
3. You can take more challenging classes.
4. You can take classes not offered at Moses Lake High School.
5. You can get a 'Running Start' on your college degree.
6. You can experience college while still in high school. This experience can make the transition from high school to college easier and clarify educational goals.
7. Students can complete more college prerequisites in a shorter period. For instance, 3 years of a Foreign Language can be completed in 1 year.

Why Not Running Start?

1. You must pay for classes if you exceed college FTE (credit hours per quarter) or take any classes numbered 099 and below, as well as classes audited.
2. You must pay for your books, fees, and supplies.
3. You must provide your transportation to and from school.
4. Grades at BBCC stay on permanent college transcripts. This would hinder transferring to a 4-year college if you do poorly and/or impact Financial Aid.
5. Moses Lake High School transcripts will reflect course titles and grades from all Running Start courses at BBCC. Grades are calculated into your high school GPA. If you do poorly at the college it will lower your GPA on your high school transcripts.
6. Class schedules and calendars at BBCC and MLHS conflict, causing scheduling problems (vacation breaks, athletics, taking both classes at the high school and college).
7. College credits earned before high school graduation may not transfer to private or out-of-state colleges. Contact specific colleges and ask about their policies.
8. You may not be socially or emotionally ready for the college atmosphere.
9. Running Start students who participate in high school activities may have difficulty meeting some of the requirements for membership in those activities. Running Start students must generally abide by the same rules as other high school students regarding attendance at meetings and participation in projects. Organizations such as class government, Honor Society, and Key Club are examples of some activities that could be impacted.
10. Students involved in athletics must coordinate practices and games with their schedule. Additionally, eligibility standards must be maintained.

Important Information & Responsibilities

1. **Students must complete High School graduation requirements at BBCC by the end of the winter quarter of their senior year. Plan accordingly with your advisor at BBCC and counselor at the MLHS. Otherwise, a student may not have all the required credits to participate in our graduation ceremonies.**
2. Parents should consider the student's maturity level when discussing the possibility of participating in Running Start. Some academically ready students may find the required independence and speed of college classes overwhelming.
3. Students who find the most success have completed Algebra II, and have passed their State Tests in English and Math.
4. Students who **change, withdraw, in danger of failing, or fail** a class must inform their counselor immediately.
5. MLHS does not pay for audited classes.
6. The student is responsible for understanding when his or her choice of schedule will result in tuition charges. If the student enrolls for more high school and college credits that are identified in the Running Start Funding Table, the student is responsible for:
 - 1) Paying all college tuition and fees associated with exceeding the college credits identified in the table; or
 - 2) Withdrawing from the excess college or high school course(s).
7. The student is required to pay any class/lab fees charged for college classes.
8. Enrollment in specific college classes cannot be guaranteed even if the classes are needed to fulfill district high school graduation requirements.
9. To add or withdraw from a course, the student must complete the college Add/Drop process by the college deadline and **notify their MLHS counselor.**
10. The student is responsible for ensuring that college courses completed as part of the Running Start Program will meet MLHS graduation requirements.
11. If the student plans to transfer, it is the student's responsibility to find out about admissions policies/deadlines and whether credits will transfer.
12. The student permits college staff to release his/her grades to the high school and to discuss various aspects of his/her program participation with the high school/district officials.
13. Student-athletes must pick up and turn in grade and attendance checks to the Athletic Director's secretary every 4 ½ weeks.

Who is Eligible?

To be admitted to BBCC as a Running Start student, students must:

- Be registered as a junior or senior in a Washington state public school
- Be under 21 years of age
- Place into a college-level English or college-level mathematics course OR the options stated on the BBCC website
<https://www.bigbend.edu/student-center/placement-options/> College-level classes are numbered 100 and above.)

Students who will take only professional/technical courses such as Welding, Industrial Systems Technology, etc., may qualify by placement into the required English and mathematics for that program. Please see the current Big Bend Course Catalog for specific program requirements and required placement.

Home-schooled students and students attending private school must be evaluated at the junior or senior level by a public high school official and enrolled at that school.

Students who have passed the GED and who do not have a high school diploma may enroll through their respective high school and be eligible for the Running Start program until the age of 21 or until high school requirements are completed, whichever occurs first.

Running Start Funding Table

If you are taking this many courses at Moses Lake High School...	FTE Calculations for Running Start and High School	...this is how many credits, per quarter at BBCC, will be paid for:
0 - Non MLHS Grad only	0	21
HR only	.03	20
1 + HR	.19	18
2 + HR	.35	15
3 + HR	.51	13
4 + HR	.67	11
5 + HR	.83	8
6 + HR	.99	6

Running Start Enrollment Checklist

1. Read the entire Running Start Handbook and get parent approval and support (required)
2. Attend or view a Running Start Informational Session by BBCC
<https://www.bigbend.edu/i-am/running-start/>
3. Meet with high school counselor to clarify questions and review requirements (recommended).
4. Apply for Admission to BBCC by mid-April.
5. Submit Placement documentation for English and Math:
<https://www.bigbend.edu/i-am/placement-evaluation-request/> or take BBCC English and Math Placement Exams by calling (509)793-2064.
6. Confirm with the MLHS Counselor of your decision.
7. Complete online Viking Orientation and register to attend a New Student Enrollment session (register for classes).
8. Return your BBCC schedule to your MLHS counselor (required)
 - a. Your Running Start Enrollment Verification Form will be filled out and signed. *Please see the MLHS Running Start website for dates and times we will be accepting Enrollment Verification Forms.
 - b. This must be completed for each quarter.
9. Return the Enrollment Verification Form to BBCC (required) to ensure tuition is paid
 - a. Student/family is responsible for paying additional fees at BBCC.
 - b. High School counselors will verify if you are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch to waive some additional fees.
 - c. Pay additional tuition and/or fees; payment can be made via students' CTC link account or students can contact BBCC's Business Office at (509)793-2018.
10. Buy Books, supplies, and materials
11. Go to classes. Study hard.
 - a. Please inform your counselor of any schedule changes or concerns

Running Start Equivalent Courses

Moses Lake High School Requirements	Big Bend Courses	Course Title
Junior English	ENGL & 101	English Composition I
Senior English	ENGL & 102	English Composition II
	ENGL & 201	Academic Composition
	ENGL & 235	Technical Writing
World History	HIST & 116	Western Civilization I
	HIST & 117	Western Civilization II
	HIST & 118	Western Civilization III
	HIST & 121	History of Mexico
	HIST & 270	The Roman World
	POLS & 206	The Middle East
	POLS & 203	International Relations
	HIST & 147	United States History II
U.S. History	HIST&148	United States History III
	HIST 215	Women in American History
Civics	POLS&202	United States Government
Math	100 & Above	Any Math
Non-Lab Sciences	Chem 105 Env Sci 100 Bio 170 NUTR101	Chemical Concepts Survey of Env Science Biology Nutrition
Lab Science	100 & Above	Any Biology or Chemistry not listed above
Fine Arts	100 & Above	Any Music, Art, Drama or FILM 101
Foreign Language	100 & Above	French, Spanish, or ASL
Physical Education	100 & Above	Any PE
Health	NUTR 101 PEH 100	Nutrition Lifetime Wellness

- Math 98 counts towards a 3rd math credit for graduation; however, it does not meet a university's Algebra II requirement.
- Students must pay for any class below the 100 level.

- Students who participate in their senior year only may use ENGL101 as Senior English.

Running Start Equivalent Courses

Moses Lake High School Requirements	Big Bend Courses	Course Title
CTE/Occupational Classes	ACCT 105	Intro to Accounting
CTE/Occupational Classes	AGR 100	Intro to Agriculture
CTE/Occupational Classes	BUS & 101	Intro to Business
CTE/Occupational Classes	BIM 103	Administrative Professional
CTE/Occupational Classes	CSS 100	College Survival Skills
CTE/Occupational Classes	CSS 105	Intro to Health Care Studies
CTE/Occupational Classes	CSS 102	Focus on Success
CTE/Occupational Classes	CSS 101	Intro to Computer Science
CTE/Occupational Classes	CJ & 101	Intro to Criminal Justice
CTE/Occupational Classes	CJ 210	Intro to American Policing
CTE/Occupational Classes	ECED & 105	Early Childhood Education
CTE/Occupational Classes	CMST 220	Public Speaking

Credit Conversion Table

Big Bend Community College Credit	Moses Lake High School Credit
5	1.0
4	.8
3	.6
2	.4
1	.2

For more information please call: Moses Lake High School Counseling Department, 766-2666, ext. 4013. Look through the Running Start website on the

high school website or contact BBCC at runningstart@bigbend.edu or call 509-793-2346

Important Reminders

Freshmen: Recommend Accelerated and/or AP Courses

Sophomores:

- December: Attend a Sophomore Parent Night at MLHS
- January/February: Attend or view a Running Start info Night at BBCC (dates posted on the counseling website)
- February: Take placement test at BBCC and/or submit placement documentation.
- March: Inform MLHS Counselor
- Recommended: Algebra II and State Tests met

Juniors: (continue attending Homeroom)

Plan accordingly with your advisor at BBCC and MLHS counselor to determine class selections. You **must** complete High School graduation requirements by the end of the winter quarter of your senior year. Otherwise, you may not have all the required credits to participate in our graduation ceremonies.

Seniors: (continue attending Homeroom)

Double-check that your HS graduation requirements will be met by the Winter Quarter. Let your HS counselor know ASAP if there is a problem. Also, make sure that you complete your High School and Beyond Plan before graduation. It is a High School Graduation requirement, regardless of whether you are a Running Start student.

***** Fridays are walk-in days from 10:35 am to 12:00 pm (no appointments needed) Come see us in the Counseling Center*****

Important Dates To Remember:

Juniors:

PSAT Testing – October

PSAT Results – Available after winter break

SAT Testing – Register in January for a spring test date

ACT Testing – Register in January for a spring test date

Seniors

SAT & ACT Testing – Register for a fall test date

College Applications – Work on applications and essays throughout the fall, watch for specific deadlines

FAFSA/WASFA Application – Submit October 1st, watch for

FAFSA/WASFA workshops

-College Bound Scholars – due date is February 1st.

The Moses Lake School District #161 does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX, Affirmative Action, and Equal Opportunity officer, Patty Laughery, 920 W. Ivy Avenue, Moses Lake, WA 98837, [509.793.7725](tel:509.793.7725); OR Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Darcy Johnson, 1318 W. Ivy Avenue, Moses Lake, WA 98837, [509.766.2650](tel:509.766.2650)

